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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR (Latvia)

DATE DISTR. 10, Aug 1953

SUBJECT Varonis and Sarkanais Quadrats Rubber Factories/
Soviet Synthetic Rubber Research/Chemical and
Cellulose PlantsNO OF PAGES 2
25X1PLACE
ACQUIREDNO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)DATE
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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

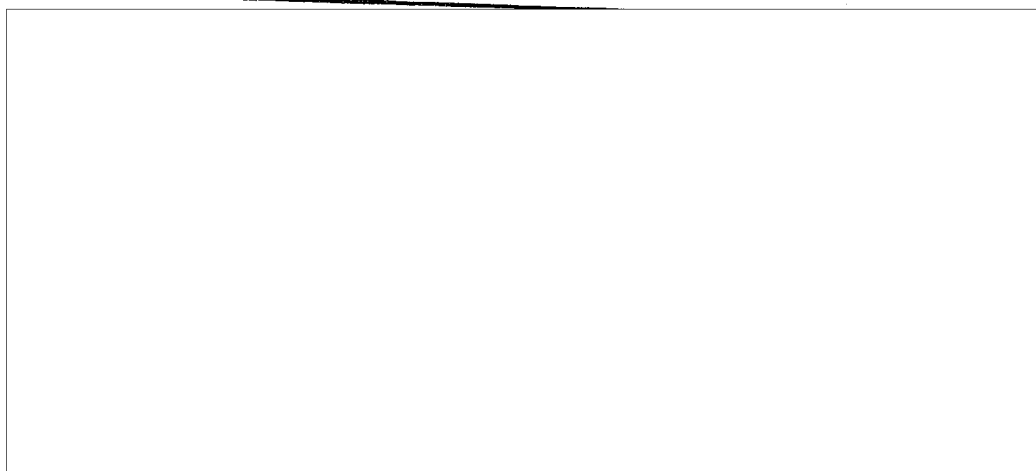
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2. The Varonis Rubber Factory now employs 800 people and is producing almost exclusively conveyor belts for use in the oil-shale mines in Estonia. These belts, which are several miles long in length, are assembled from smaller lengths after they leave the factory. The conveyor belts are made from Soviet synthetic rubber which is sodium-butadiene polymer.
3. The largest rubber plant [redacted] in production in Riga is Sarkanais Quadrats which employs about one thousand workers and it is producing only rubber footwear from Soviet synthetic rubber. It is reported that these articles have little resistance or strength. A third rubber factory, "Meteors", recently closed down because of the lack of usable equipment.



4. Compared with the German Buna S, the Soviet synthetic rubber being used at Varonis is very soft and does not have to be softened as does Buna S. However, the Soviet synthetic rubber is not very strong and it does not have the high abrasion resistance found in Buna S. Therefore, the conveyor belts manufactured by Varonis have to be very frequently replaced.

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- 25X1 5. Soviet synthetic rubber was first made by a Russian chemist named Lebedev [redacted]
 25X1 [redacted]
 25X1 [redacted] Lebedev was executed for some unknown reason by the Soviets in or
 25X1 about 1936. [redacted]
 25X1 [redacted]
 25X1 [redacted]

- 25X1 6. Before [redacted] 1944, [redacted] the USSR scientists were very
 25X1 interested in cultivating a plant known as koksagyz which contains a latex-
 25X1 like fluid that can be coagulated into rubber and vulcanized when mixed with
 25X1 sulphur and heated. [redacted] it was one of the
 25X1 research projects that was carried on in 1944 at Varonis in Riga. [redacted]
 the results of [redacted] research work with koksagyz, it was very sticky and oxidized
 easily in air. It was necessary to store it in cellophane bags and the rubber
 produced from koksagyz was of poor quality. However, the Soviets were using
 koksagyz in 1944 for a number of articles.

- 25X1 7. [redacted]
 chemical factories are still [redacted] in operation but [redacted] the big super
 phosphate plant in Milgravis (a suburb of Riga) had recently stopped work
 because the Soviets had removed the lead plates necessary for the production of
 sulphuric acid from the plant. The main production of this plant was synthetic
 fertilizer made out of phosphate and sulphuric acid.

- 25X1 8. The "Baltijas Vagonu Fabrika (Baltic Train Car Factory)" in Riga is still
 25X1 producing passenger train cars which are all shipped to the USSR. No new cars
 are needed in Latvia because the transportation of passengers in trains has
 been greatly reduced and no one is allowed to board a train in Latvia without
 a special permit.

9. The three important cellulose factories in Latvia are still [redacted] in
 operation. These plants are located in Riga, Sloka and Ligatne. The Ligatne
 factory was famous prior to World War II for the production of an excellent
 grade of paper which was exported to Western Europe. This plant is reported
 to manufacture the best paper of all the paper plants in the USSR and the
 entire production is sent to the USSR.

10. [redacted] some of the
 Latvian women who were deported to Siberia in June 1941 have now returned
 to Riga but they are not allowed to reveal any of their experiences to anyone.
 None of the Latvian men deported at the same time [June 1941] have returned
 [redacted]

- end -

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